AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-22 (Cancelled).

23 (new). A system for providing access to flight management system software over a network coupling a server application and remotely-located client computer executing a general-purpose network browser and a client application, said system comprising:

a database configured to store a plurality of records;

a general-purpose host computer comprising at least one avionics co-processor card configured to execute the flight management system software; and

a gateway in communication with said network, with the database, and with the general-purpose host computer, wherein said gateway is configured to provide access between said client application and the flight management system software executing on said avionics co-processor card via said network, and wherein said access is based upon comparison of a credential provided from said general-purpose network browser with one of the records stored in the database.

24 (new). The system of claim 23 wherein the flight management system software is the same code used in an actual aircraft.

25 (new). The system of claim 23 wherein the flight management system software is based upon software licensed from the manufacturer of a flight management system used in an actual aircraft.

26 (new). The system of claim 23 wherein the flight management system software is based upon the same code used in an actual aircraft.

27 (new). The system of claim 23 wherein the client application comprises a library of graphical imagery for an aircraft electronic flight instrument system.

28 (new). The system of claim 27 wherein the avionics co-processor is further configured to execute a server application configured to process update instructions for the electronic flight information system.

29 (new). The system of claim 28 wherein the gateway is further configured to route the update instructions from the server application to the client application.

30 (new). The system of claim 23 wherein the system is further operable to retrieve a set of user preferences from the database and to transmit the user preferences to a server application executing on the general-purpose host computer.

31 (new). The system of claim 30 wherein the set of user preferences comprises a preferred choice for aircraft type.

32 (new). The system of claim 30 wherein the set of user preferences comprises a preferred choice for a navigation database version.

33 (new). The system of claim 30 wherein the set of user preferences comprises preferred choices for aircraft type and for a navigation database version.

34 (new). A content-providing system for allowing a remotely-located user operating a general-purpose network browser program having a user interface displayed by a client computer to access flight management system software via a public digital network, said system comprising:

a gateway having an interface to said public digital network;

a database in communication with said gateway; and

at least one general-purpose host computer system executing said flight management system software on a simulation card.

35 (new). The content-providing system of claim 34 wherein said gateway is operable to receive a request via the public digital network for a connection to said server portion

from the general-purpose network browser executing on the client computer, to authenticate the request based upon information contained in the database, and to establish a connection over the public digital network between said server portion and a client portion of said flight simulator program executing on the client computer following a successful authentication, wherein primary processing for said flight simulator takes place at said server portion, and wherein updates to the user interface displayed on the client computer are processed at said client portion.

36 (new). The content-providing system of claim 35 wherein said database comprises billing information, and wherein the gateway is further configured to update the billing information in response to the connection being established.

37 (new). A method of providing access to flight management system software executing at a content-providing system having a database via a public digital network from a client computer, wherein the client computer comprises a general purpose network browser having a user interface displayed on the client computer, the method comprising:

receiving a request for a connection from the network browser via said public digital network at a gateway associated with said content-providing system, wherein the request comprises an authentication credential;

correlating said authentication credential with data stored in the database to verify that said client computer is permitted to access said content-providing system;

establishing a connection between said client computer and said content-providing system across said public digital network via said gateway in response to the request;

executing said flight management system software at said content-providing system; and

providing instructions from said flight management system software to said client portion, said instructions corresponding to an update to the user interface executing at said client computer.

38 (new). The method of claim 37 further comprising the step of monitoring a time of usage at said content-providing system.

39 (new). The method of claim 37 further comprising the step of maintaining information at said content-providing system, wherein said billing information is correlated to said time of usage.

40 (new). The method of claim 37 wherein the flight management system software is the same code used in an actual aircraft.

41 (new). The method of claim 37 wherein the flight management system software is based upon software licensed from the manufacturer of a flight management system used in an actual aircraft.

42 (new). The method of claim 37 wherein the flight management system software is based upon the same code used in an actual aircraft.